AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A polarizer composed of a film comprising a structure in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in a polymer matrix,

wherein a polymer forming the polymer matrix is a translucent polymer having a light transmittance of 88% or more when measured thereof with a thickness of 1 mm and the film is uniaxially stretched,

a domain formed with fine metallic particles has an average particle diameter of 100 nm or less and an aspect ratio (a ratio of a maximum length/a minimum length) of less than 1.5, [[and]]

wherein the fine metallic particles are gold fine particles or silver fine particles and the translucent polymer has uniaxial birefringence due to uniaxial stretching; and

the polarizer has an absorption spectrum with an absorption peak at a given wavelength, measured when polarized light incidences thereon,

wherein if an azimuth of an incident polarization plane is altered relative to the polarizer, the absorption peak wavelength shifts in accordance with an alteration in the azimuth, in a case where an azimuth of the incident polarization plane relative to the polarizer is altered, if an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 0 degree when an absorption peak wavelength of an absorption spectrum that is measured is the longest wavelength, which is referred to as $\lambda 1$, by definition,

if an azimuth of the polarization plane is gradually increased from 0 degree, a value of the absorption peak wavelength shifts to the short wavelength side in accordance with the increase, and

when an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 90 degrees, a value of the absorption peak wavelength is the shortest wavelength, which is referred to as λ2, by definition.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented): A fabrication method for the polarizer according to claim 1, comprising steps of: forming a film with a mixed solution comprising fine metallic particles obtained by dispersing fine metallic particles in a solution containing a translucent polymer having a light transmittance of 88% or more when measured thereof with a thickness of 1 mm and thereafter, uniaxially stretching the film.

4. (Currently amended): A polarizer in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in a matrix formed with a liquid crystalline material, wherein a domain formed with fine metallic particles has an average particle diameter of 100 nm or less and an aspect ratio (a ratio of a maximum length/a minimum length) of or less than 1.5, [[and]] wherein the fine metallic particles are gold fine particles or silver fine particles; and

the polarizer has an absorption spectrum with an absorption peak at a given wavelength, measured when polarized light incidences thereon,

wherein if an azimuth of an incident polarization plane is altered relative to the polarizer, the absorption peak wavelength shifts in accordance with an alteration in the azimuth, in a case where an azimuth of the incident polarization plane relative to the polarizer is altered, if an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 0 degree when an absorption peak wavelength of an absorption spectrum that is measured is the longest wavelength, which is referred to as $\lambda 1$, by definition,

if an azimuth of the polarization plane is gradually increased from 0 degree, a value of the absorption peak wavelength shifts to the short wavelength side in accordance with the increase, and

when an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 90 degrees, a value of the absorption peak wavelength is the shortest wavelength, which is referred to as $\lambda 2$, by definition.

5. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystalline material is uniaxially aligned.

6. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystalline material is a liquid crystal polymer.

7. (Previously presented): The fabrication method for the polarizer according to Claim 4, comprising step of: forming a film with a mixed solution obtained by dispersing fine metallic particles in a solution containing a liquid crystalline material.

8. (Currently amended): A polarizer composed of a film in which fine metallic particles is dispersed in a translucent polymer having a birefringence in the film plane,

wherein a domain formed with fine metallic particles has an average particle diameter of 100 nm or less and an aspect ratio (a ratio of a maximum length/a minimum length) of less than 1.5,

the polarizer has an absorption spectrum with an absorption peak at a given wavelength, measured when polarized light incidences thereon,

wherein if an azimuth of an incident polarization plane is altered relative to the polarizer, the absorption peak wavelength shifts in accordance with an alteration in the azimuth, and

wherein the fine metallic particles are gold fine particles or silver fine particles and the translucent polymer has uniaxial birefringence due to uniaxial stretching

in a case where an azimuth of the incident polarization plane relative to the polarizer is altered, if an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 0 degree when an absorption peak wavelength of an absorption spectrum that is measured is the longest wavelength, which is referred to as $\lambda 1$, by definition,

if an azimuth of the polarization plane is gradually increased from 0 degree, a value of the absorption peak wavelength shifts to the short wavelength side in accordance with the increase and

when an azimuth of the incident polarization plane is 90 degrees, a value of the absorption peak wavelength is the shortest wavelength, which is referred to as λ2, by definition.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original): The polarizer according to claim 9, satisfying a relation of (λ1 – λ2) = 10 to 50 nm.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented): A polarizing plate in which a transparent protective layer is provided on at least one surface of the polarizer according to claim 1.

18. (Previously presented): An optical film comprising one polarizer according to claim 1.

19. (Previously presented): An image display comprising one polarizer according to claim 1.

20. (Previously presented): An optical film comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 17 as a laminate.

21. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 17.

22. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the optical film according to claim 18.

23. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein a content of fine metallic particles dispersed in the matrix is 0.1 to 10 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the matrix materials.

24. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein a content of fine metallic particles dispersed in the matrix is 0.1 to 10 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the matrix materials.

25. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 8, wherein a content of fine metallic particles dispersed in the matrix is 0.1 to 10 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the matrix materials.

26. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said fine metallic particles are not aligned within the polymer matrix.

27. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein said fine metallic particles are not aligned within the liquid crystalline material matrix.

28. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 8, wherein said fine metallic particles are not aligned with the polymer matrix.

29. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter is 25nm and the aspect ratio is 1.3.

30. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 4, wherein the polarizer has an absorption spectrum with an absorption peak at a given wavelength, measured when polarized light incidences thereon,

wherein if an azimuth of an incident polarization plane is altered relative to the polarizer, the absorption peak wavelength shifts in accordance with an alteration in the azimuth.

31. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the film has a stretch ratio of 3 to 30 times.

32. (Previously presented): The polarizer according to claim 8, wherein the film has a stretch ratio of 3 to 30 times.

33. (New): The polarizer according to claim 1, satisfying a relation of $(\lambda 1 - \lambda 2) = 10$ to 50 nm.

34. (New): The polarizer according to claim 4, satisfying a relation of $(\lambda 1 - \lambda 2) = 10$ to 50 nm.